

The draft Removal Action Workplan is available for public review at the information repository locations listed below. DTSC encourages you to submit written or verbal comments from April 16, 2001 to May 16, 2001. The school’s 2001 Public Participation Update is also available at these locations.

Upon DTSC approval of the Jefferson New Middle School Remedial Investigation, a Feasibility Study will be conducted to determine if any additional removal actions need to be taken.

Based on those findings a decision will be made about completing a draft Remedial Action Plan for any cleanup, if necessary, for the rest of the school site.

Glossary of Acronyms

AT&SF	= Atchison, Topkea & Santa Fe
CEQA	= California Environmental Quality Act
DTSC	= Department of Toxic Substances Control
PCB	= polychlorinated biphenyls
PCE	= perchloroethylene
PRP	= Potentially Responsible Parties
RAW	= Remedial Action Workplan
RI	=Remedial Investigation
RWQCB	= Regional Water Quality Control Board
SCAQMD	= South Coast Air Quality Management
SVE	= Soil Vapor Extraction
TCE	= trichloroethylene

MORE INFORMATION

The Jefferson New Middle School Interim Draft Removal Action Workplan and the school’s 2001 Public Participation Plan are available for public review at the following locations:

Vernon Branch Public Library

4504 South Central Avenue  
Los Angeles, California  
(323) 234-9106

Hours:

Monday and Wednesday	11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday and Saturday	10:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Thursday and Friday	12:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Sunday	Closed

DTSC Regional Records Office

1011 N. Grandview Avenue  
Glendale, California  
(818) 551-2886

Hours:

Monday-Friday	8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
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Contacts

For information regarding this DTSC school site project, please contact: Ms. Treva Miller, DTSC Public Participation Specialist, at (818) 551-2846, or Mr. Rao Akula, DTSC Project Manager, at (818) 551-2847. To have questions answered in Spanish, please call Mr. Javier Hinojosa, at (818) 551-2172.

DTSC Media Contact – Lisa Kunz (916) 347-8304.

Hearing Impaired

You can obtain additional information by using the California State Relay Service at 1-888-877-5378 (TDD). Ask them to contact Ms. Treva Miller about the Jefferson Middle School site.

The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our web site at [www.dtsc.ca.gov](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov).

FACT SHEET  
April 2001



Jefferson New  
Middle School

PUBLIC INPUT SOUGHT ON DRAFT INTERIM REMOVAL ACTION PLAN

California  
Environmental  
Protection Agency

Department of Toxic  
Substances Control

It is DTSC’s mission  
to protect public  
health and the  
environment from  
harmful exposure  
to hazardous  
substances.



INTRODUCTION

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) invites comments on the draft interim Removal Action Workplan (RAW) to upgrade the Soil Vapor Extraction System (SVE) near the Jefferson New Middle School Administration Building, located at 644 East 56th Street, Los Angeles, California, 90011.

The proposed new system would prevent chemically contaminated soil vapors from traveling downward and possibly contaminating groundwater. Testing of the air at the school has determined that the soil vapors do not pose a potential threat or risk to the health and safety of students at Jefferson.

The DTSC is overseeing the environmental investigation and any additional treatment or potential cleanup procedures being conducted by the Jefferson Site Potentially Responsible Parties (PRP) Group LLC. The PRP Group is comprised of three entities that are involved with the Jefferson New Middle School property:

- Los Angeles Unified School District, which is the current property owner;
- MHC, Inc., which is an alleged successor to a former owner of the property; and
- ALCO Capital Group, Inc., which is an alleged successor to a former tenant at the property.

This fact sheet provides information on the comment period and community meeting, site description and background, the proposed RAW, an overview of site investigations, health risk assessment results, and next steps. (A glossary of all acronyms is listed on page 4).

SITE DESCRIPTION

Jefferson New Middle School is bordered on the west by Avalon Boulevard, the south by the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe (AT&SF) Railroad and Slauson Avenue, the east by Paloma Avenue,

COMMUNITY MEETING  
ANNOUNCEMENT

Jefferson New Middle School  
Multipurpose Room  
644 E. 56th Street  
Los Angeles, California

Tuesday, May 8, 2001

Open House – 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
Community Meeting – 6:00 p.m.

DTSC will hold an open house and community meeting to provide more information about the draft Interim Removal Action Work (RAW) and findings of the Remedial Investigation at JeffersonNew Middle School.

We encourage you to attend the open house if you would like your questions answered one-on-one in an informal setting, or attend the evening community meeting for formal presentation and to share your comments and questions. You may submit written comments on the draft RAW during the 30-day public comment period from April 16 to May 16, 2001 to:

Treva Miller  
Public Participation Specialist  
Dept. of Toxic Substances Control  
1011 N. Grandview Avenue  
Glendale, CA 91201  
(818) 551-2846

DTSC encourages you to take an active interest in the issues affecting the hazardous substance treatment and/or cleanup activities at this school. A copy of the RAW environmental document and the Public Participation Plan for this school is available at the local Information Repositories on page 4 of this fact sheet.

For information on meeting accessibility and to request reasonable accommodations, please contact Ms. Treva Miller at (818) 551-2846.

and the north by East 56th Street. The Jefferson New Middle School consists of several single and multiple story buildings, a multi-purpose sports field, and common areas covered by concrete, asphalt, or landscaping. The school opened in July 1998 and has an enrollment of approximately 3,000 students year-round.

Land use in the surrounding area is mixed commercial, residential and industrial. The school is located just south of the Hard Chrome Products State Superfund Cleanup site.

The Jefferson New Middle School property was formerly occupied by a service station; a machine shop; and a furniture manufacturing facility with warehouses. The former industrial buildings were demolished between 1994 and 1997.

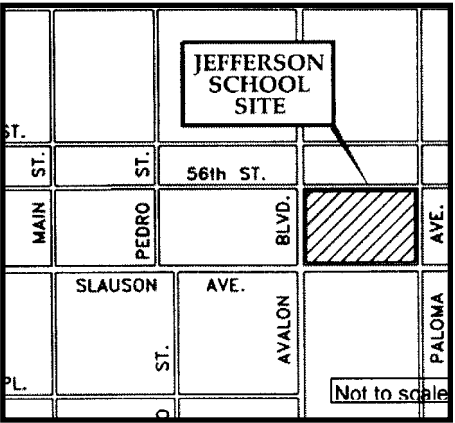
DRAFT REMOVAL ACTION  
WORKPLAN (RAW)

The original SVE system at Jefferson New Middle School operated from 1995 to 1996. It cleaned up the soils contaminated with petroleum hydrocarbons from the former service station located on the southwest corner of the site.

In 1997 the system was moved to cleanup soils in the area of the School Administration Building that contained volatile organic compounds (solvents), primarily trichloroethylene (TCE). The system operated under the oversight of the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) and the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). In September 1998 the system was voluntarily shut down by the LAUSD in consultation with DTSC. This was done in order to ensure compliance with the SCAQMD

This draft RAW proposes upgrading the SVE system located next to the school’s Administration Building. This system would prevent contaminated vapors from traveling though the soil, and possibly contaminating nearby soil and groundwater.

The original SVE system installed at the Jefferson New Middle School was designed to remove vapors in the soils under the school Administration Building. The design of this proposed upgraded system will be approved by the DTSC, and the SCAQMD.



The SVE system works by pulling soil vapors through a series of large air filters or scrubbers before releasing cleaned air into the atmosphere. The original SVE was turned off in 1998 when it was found to be violating the SCAQMD permit requirements.

The proposed upgraded system includes replacing the two former air scrubbers with three larger scrubbers for a greater capacity to extract and clean vapors. The emissions stack will be rerouted away from the Administration Building. In addition, extra soil vapor monitoring wells have been installed to better monitor the soil vapors for any other potential volatile organic compounds.

EARLY ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Numerous studies were conducted between 1989 and 2000, which included analyzing the air, soil vapors, soils, and groundwater.

Investigations of the site between 1989 and 1994 identified six areas at the site requiring further research. These investigations found elevated concentrations of petroleum hydrocarbons as well as volatile organic compounds (solvents) in the soil. To lower the levels of these contaminants in the soil, several actions were performed including the excavation and offsite disposal of contaminated soil and the installation of a SVE system.

Since the original SVE was turned off in 1998 there have been several environmental investigations and continuous monitoring at Jefferson New Middle School to determine if existing environmental conditions posed a health risk to students and faculty.

Initially indoor and outdoor ambient air sampling was conducted and the investigation confirmed that the school was safe for students and faculty.

The results of this Health Risk Assessment were presented in public briefings, and in a public meeting conducted by the DTSC in October 1998.

During the next two years soil vapor, soil and groundwater investigations were conducted. During this period 563 soil samples and more than 100 soil vapor samples were collected and analyzed for these investigations. The DTSC Human and Ecological Risk Division conducted three Health Risk Assessments between 1998 and 2000 based on evaluations of the data gathered from those investigations. These studies each confirmed residual contamination from the chemicals at the site does not pose a significant health risk to the students or staff at Jefferson New Middle School.

REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION

Since its formation in April 2000, the PRP Group has monitored the environmental conditions at Jefferson New Middle School under the oversight of the DTSC. The PRP Group also conducted a Remedial Investigation (RI) of additional soil and groundwater samples. The goal was to determine if any other actions were needed to further guarantee that chemicals in the soil and groundwater do not pose a threat to public health or the environment.

- The objectives of the RI were to:
- Build on other studies to reconfirm the safety of students and staff from exposure to soil chemicals.
  - Further determine what kind of chemical contamination exists beneath the school and how much there is.
  - Conclude if any additional cleanup options for the soil are necessary.

To achieve these objectives, the PRP Group has been drilling for soil vapor, soil, and groundwater samples up to 145 feet beneath the school. The results of the groundwater, soil, soil gas, and air data information were then analyzed.

The remaining scope of work was identified in a Consent Order issued by DTSC in January 2001 requiring the PRP Group to consolidate and analyze the past data collected, identify any missing data, and to provide a schedule for required future work.

The PRP Group has submitted a Remedial Investigation Report with its findings to the DTSC. After the report is reviewed and approved by DTSC, a Feasibility Study will determine if any other work is needed. In turn, a decision will be made about completing a final Remedial Action Workplan for whatever further treatment or cleanup activities for the school property may be necessary.

SITE INVESTIGATION CONCLUSIONS

Investigations have found that soil and groundwater below the Jefferson New Middle School contains chemicals including: hexavalent chromium, chromium, lead, arsenic, and the solvents trichloroethylene (TCE), and perchloroethylene (PCE). The volatile organic compounds acetone, methylene chloride, toluene, Freon 113, and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) are present in soil vapors beneath the school.

The Remedial Investigation has concluded that the level of chemical compounds at the school does not pose any potential threat or health risk to the Jefferson New Middle School students and staff.

While the level of chemicals discovered in the soil and water does not pose a health risk on the site, installation of the upgraded SVE system was recommended as a water quality safeguard.

The SVE system was found to be the most feasible method to cleanup or treat the chemicals beneath the Administration Building with minimal disruption to the school operations, and to protect the groundwater from contamination that could potentially harm the drinking water supply to the community.

HEALTH RISK ASSESSMENT

Since 1998 four separate Health Risk Assessment studies have evaluated the potential risks to human health by exposure to residual contamination at the Jefferson New Middle School.

In 2001, an updated Health Risk Assessment again confirmed that Jefferson New Middle School is safe for students and faculty. Each study has confirmed that residual chemical contamination at the site is at levels too low and in locations too far underground to pose a significant health risk to the students or staff at Jefferson New Middle School.

NEXT STEPS

The DTSC will file for a "Notice of Exemption" from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the proposed installation of an upgraded SVE system. The upgrade would qualify for an exemption since there is no possibility of a significant effect on the environment from the installation.